Steps to Implement the Disabilities Act, 1995

390. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken, till date, to implement the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 so as to enable 60 milion disabled people in this country to lead a life of dignity and honour;

(b) whether Government are aware that even the job quota of three per cent in Government jobs for the 'C' and 'D' categories is not enough to do full justice to the capabilities of disabled people; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to impress upon public/private sector organisations to provide job opportunities to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the necessity to provide job opportunities to the persons with disabilities, a provision has already been made under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, to provide not less than 3% of vacancies for persons with disability of which one per cent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment; and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy, in the posts identified for each disability, in the estabilsihments of every appropriate Government. The Act further provides under Section 41 that appropriate Governments and the local authorities shall, within the limits of their economic capacity and development, provide incentives to employers both in public and private sectors to ensure that at least five per cent of their work force is composed of persons with disabilities. The Ministry of SJ & E, in accordance with the provision, has requested the Ministry of Finance to initiate appropriate action in this regard.

Statement

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995, enacted and enforced from Feb., 1996 is an important landmark in Government of India's efforts to ensure equal opportunites for persons with disabilities and their full participation in nation-building. It provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of

rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc.

The implementation of the provisions of the Act, requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach, of all Ministries of the Central Government, the State Governments and other appropriate authorities. They have all been requested to take necessary action expeditiously. The following actions have been taken to implement various provisions of the Act:

(a) The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been operationalised with effect from 24.10.97 to support entrepreneurial activity by the disabled.

(b) Notification of Central Co-ordination Committee as per Section 3 of the Act. The Committee has undertaken two meetings so far.

(c) Central Executive Committee has been notified. The Committee took four meetings so far to review the progress of implementation of the Act.

(d) The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been appointed and he has assumed the office w.e.f. 1.9.98.

(e) Five Core Groups of experts and relevant Ministries have been set up to make recommendations and formulate schemes to give effect to various provisions of the Act.

(f) 3% reservation of jobs in Government establishments and Public Sector Undertakings has been provided under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, for the persons with disabilities.

(g) The Ministry has set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (SJ & E), to review the existing identification of posts (done in 1986) and to identify more suitable posts.

(h) Rules under section 73(1) and (2) have been notified.

(i) The National Fund for People with Disabilities, which was set up under

the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890 on 11.8.1983, has been activated and assistance has been sanctioned to non-government agencies. So far, 17 Projects have been sanctioned under the Scheme.

(j) A new Scheme, namely, Viklang Bandhu has been formulated to provide training to disabled volunteers. The National Institutes and Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres have so far trained a number of Viklang Bandhus.

(k) A Bill for setting a National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has been passed to provide support to these vulnerable categories and their families.

(l) The Rehabilitation Council of India, which is statutory body for standardisation and training of rehabilitation professional, recognition of training institutions and registration of professionals, has recently taken up a plan for man-power in disability rehabilitation throughout the country. Funds have been allocated to RCI for this purpose.

(m) Most State Governments have constituted State Coordination Committee and State Executive Committee and have appointed Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, to redress the grievances of the disabled persons.

(n) A Scheme called National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has now been approved for establishing necessary infrastructure up to the District level, to realise fully the objectives of the Act. Funds are being released to the State Governments for implementation of the Scheme.

(o) A Conference of State Secretaries, in-charge of persons with disabilities was held on 14-15, Feb., 2000 at New Delhi to discuss the implementation of the Act. A Workshop of State Education Secretaries and State Labour Secretaries was also held at New Delhi to sensitise the State Officials and to monitor the progress of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(p) An Inter-ministerial Group has been constituted to monitor the progress made by the Central Ministries who have specific obligations under the Act.

(q) Two Schemes are being implemented for providing support to non-government agencies working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(r) In consonance with the policy of providing a complete package of welfare services to the physically, mentally, hearing and visually handicapped individuals and groups and in order to effectively deal with the multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the Ministry of SJ & E has established six National/Apex Institutes, each working in a specific area of disability. These institutes are apex-level organisations in the field of education, training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation and development of suitable service modules for the disabled.

(s) The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), Kanpur was established in November, 1972 as a Public Sector Company with the main objective of developing and manufacturing standard aids and appliances for the disabled persons and to make them available at reasonable prices to them throughout India. It manufactures wheel chairs, tricycle, aritificial limbs, crutches and many other aids and appliances for the handicapped persons. A scheme for setting up four Auxiliary Production Centres of ALIMCO has been launched recently with a view to expand the production base of ALIMCO.

(t) The District Rehabilitation Centre Scheme (DRC) was initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during 1985 to provide Comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disabled right at their door step in 11 districts of the country. Four Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres (RRTCs) have also been set up at Chennai, Mumbai, Cuttack and Lucknow for training and manpower development in the field of rehabilitation, particularly for the DRCs.

(u) A programme viz. Rashtriya Gramin Vikłang Sahayata Samiti has been launched, under which 100 districts have been identified and selected to provide rehabilitation services in collaboration with the district authorities and the respective State Government.

(v) A scheme for setting up four regional centres for the spinally injured and persons with orthopaedic disabilities have been recently approved for implementation as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Centre:State share on 90:10 basis.

(w) A Scheme for setting up six Composite Resource Centres (CRCs) has been recently approved as a Central Scheme with the objective of creating an infrastucture for serving as composite outreach extension centres of the National Institutes under the disabilities sector for providing, *inter-alia* training, research, development and models of rehabilitation.

Government's Contribution in the Share Capital of MPSMFDC

†391. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether minorities Finance and Development Corporation has been set up at national level for economic development of minority communities;

(b) if so, the amount fixed for Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the contribution of Central Government in the share capital of MP State Minorities Finance and Development Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Year-wise disbursements to Madhya Pradesh State Minorities Finance and Development Corporation are as given below:—

Amount in Rs/lacs

Year	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Amount	136.30	364.07	Nil	235.18

In the current year (1999-2000), Rs. 204 lacs have been allocated to Madhya Pradesh State Minorities Finance and Development Corporation. However, drawal so far is nil.

(c) Does not arise.

Crimes Committed on Pretext of Beggary in the Capital

†392. SHRI D. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.